



Dwight D. Eisenhower

Presidential Library and Museum

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Dawn Hammatt, Director

Dwight Eisenhower is one of the greatest Americans of the 20th century. He was an incredible military leader and our 34th President (from the 34th state). Kansas has much to be proud of in this Kansan.

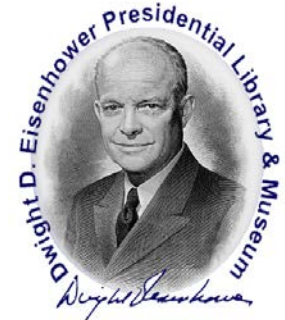
Ike is the only one of the seven Eisenhower boys born outside of Dickinson County, Kansas. He was born in Texas, but the family returned to Kansas before he was 2 years old. Growing up in the heartland, he was raised in humble surroundings.

Eisenhower left Kansas to fulfill his destiny; however, his home and his roots remained dear to his heart. During his Guildhall speech in London at the end of World War II, he proclaimed “I come from the very heart of America.” And, in his homecoming speech in Abilene he stated “The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.”

The boyhood home opened to the public in 1947 to honor Abilene’s hometown hero and plans were in place to build a museum honoring WWII veterans. In 1952, Ike returned home to Abilene to make his presidential campaign announcement and he later decided that Abilene should be the home of his Presidential Library. He is also laid to rest on the campus in the Place of Meditation along with his wife Mamie and their first-born son Doud.

There are only 13 such Presidential Libraries in the U.S. The Eisenhower is unique in the Presidential Libraries network--the only one with five individual buildings located on a 22-acre park-like campus. We house and care for over 26 million manuscript pages, nearly a million feet of film, more than 350,000 photographs, and just under 100,000 objects in the museum collection. And, don’t forget... all of this is available for our public. We welcome over 200,000 guests per year.

Ike stood for education, prosperity and peace for all. These beliefs were derived from his upbringing here in Kansas. He chose to have his museum, library and final resting place in Abilene, the gem on the plains. Ike’s connection to Kansas cannot be understated. He was proud of his hometown and forever remained a humble man from Kansas...the man from Abilene.



The proudest thing I can claim is that I am from Abilene.
Dwight D. Eisenhower, Homecoming Speech, Abilene, Kansas, June 22, 1945



www.eisenhower.archives.gov

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